GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3502
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
BACKBONE T.B. IN CHILDREN
Narhire Smt. Kalpana Ramesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that symptoms of backbone of T.B. in children have been found in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this disease among children ;

(d) whether Bone T.B. cases are found to be the most common among children in Maharashtra ;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the assistance given to the State to check this disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) and (b): Pulmonary form of TB is the most common among all TB cases. About 15% of TB cases are extra pulmonary and even in such cases, back bone TB ranks third. The information on the site of disease among the extra pulmonary cases is not collected in the routine reporting system.

(c): To control tuberculosis in the population which includes paediatric TB also, the Revised National TB Control Programme, widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases.

The project districts have reported a cure rate of more than 85% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated. To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practioners and NGOs in the programme.

DOTS coverage is being rapidly expanded in the country. From 20 million coverage in 1998, more than 920 million population in 530 districts has been covered to date. It is envisaged to cover the entire country by 2005 under the revised strategy.

(d) and (e): Under the Programme, there is no evidence suggestive of increase in back bone TB cases in children in the State of Maharashtra.

(f): The Revised National TB Control Programme is being implemented in the country including the State of Maharashtra as a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme. Under the Programme, full requirement of Anti-TB drugs and Binocular Microscopes are supplied by the Centre. For undertaking various activities for implementation of RNTCP in the State, funds as grants-in-aid are provided by the Centre to the State TB Societies for onward transmission to districts. For the year 2003-04, assistance of Rs.769.26 lakhs has been provided to the State TB Society Maharashtra.